Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims

1. (Currently amended) An air foil for floating a web of material, comprising a primary discharge slot and a second discharge slot having a discharge opening and being spaced from and stepped down from said primary discharge slot, said secondary discharge slot being downstream of said primary discharge slot in the direction of web travel, a first flat web support surface between said primary discharge slot and said secondary discharge slot, and a second web support surface downstream of said secondary discharge slot opening in the direction of web travel.

2. (Original) The air foil of claim 1, wherein said secondary discharge slot discharges air parallel to the web.

3. (Original) The air foil of claim 1, wherein air discharged from said primary discharge slot is gathered into the air stream of said secondary discharge slot in a direction parallel to the web transport direction.

4. (Previously presented) The air foil of claim 1, wherein said second web support surface comprises a wing portion

that slopes downwardly as it extends away from said secondary discharge slot.

5. (Original) The air foil of claim 1, further comprising a diffuser for uniformly distributing air to said primary discharge slot and to said secondary discharge slot.

6. (Currently amended) A web dryer, comprising a web inlet and a web outlet spaced from said web inlet, a plurality of air discharge nozzles in said dryer for drying said web, and at least one air foil in said dryer, said air foil comprising a primary discharge slot and a second discharge slot spaced from and stepped down from said primary discharge slot, <u>said secondary discharge slot being downstream of said primary discharge slot in the direction of web travel,</u> a first flat web support surface between said primary discharge slot and said secondary discharge slot, and a second web support surface downstream of said secondary discharge slot in the direction of web travel.

7. (Original) The web dryer of claim 6, wherein there are a plurality of air foils in said dryer, all positioned on the same side of said web.

8. (Previously presented) The air foil of claim 1, wherein said second web surface is an elongated wing having a series of bends.

9. (Previously presented) The air foil of claim 8, wherein said elongated wing terminates in a downwardly extending flange.

10. (Previously presented) the air foil of claim 8, wherein one of said bends is at an angle of 3°.

11. (Previously presented)) An air foil for floating a web of material, comprising a primary discharge slot and a second discharge slot spaced from and stepped down from said primary discharge slot, a first web support surface between said primary discharge slot and said secondary discharge slot, a second web support surface downstream of said secondary discharge slot in the direction of web travel, said second web support surface comprising a bent plate, wherein said secondary discharge slot is defined by said first web support surface and said bent plate, wherein air discharged from said primary discharge slot is gathered into the air stream of said secondary discharge slot in a direction parallel to the web transport direction.

12. (Previously presented) The air foil of claim 11, wherein said bent plate comprises a plurality of apertures to allow air flow to said secondary discharge slot.

13. (Previously presented) The air foil of claim 11, wherein said secondary discharge slot discharges air parallel to the web.

14. (Cancelled)